

## Bicycle front suspension

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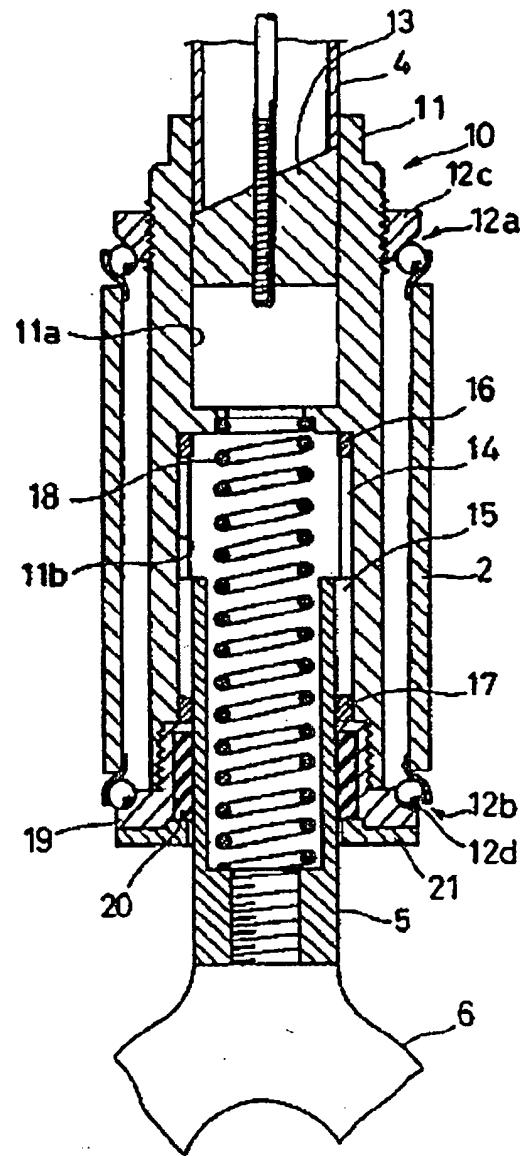
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A shock absorber mechanism 10 is mounted between the handlebar stem 4 and the fork stem 5 of a bicycle and includes a sleeve 11, a spring 18 and a friction member 20. The handle bar stem 4 is fixed to the upper portion of the sleeve 11, and the fork stem 5 is rotationally fixed to, but axially slidably in, the lower portion of the sleeve 11, e.g. by a spline 14, 15. The spring 18 is arranged to oppose axial movement of the fork stem 5 relative to the sleeve 11. The friction member 20 is mounted at the lower end of the sleeve 11 and provides a frictional damping force opposing relative axial movement of the fork stem 5 and sleeve 11. The suspension height and travel of the front forks 6 may be adjusted by providing an adjustable spring seat (24, fig 4), and the damping rate of the friction member 20 may be varied by compressing it through adjuster ring 21b.

Fig.2



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